

Middle Georgia State College Faculty Senate AY 2015–2016
Meeting #7 TEB 231, Macon Campus
Friday, April 1, 2016

Present:

Mr. Charlie Agnew, Associate Professor of Art
Dr. Charla Baker, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Ms. Sydney Chalfa, Associate Professor of Theatre and Communications
Dr. Martiza Bell-Corrales, Associate Professor of Spanish
Dr. Gaston Brouwer, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Robert Burnham, Professor of History
Dr. Jeffrey Burne, Professor of Biology
Ms. Paige Crump, Associate Professor of Spanish
Mr. Chad Dennis, UAS coordinator
Dr. Lorraine Dubuisson, Associate Professor of English
Dr. Javan Frazier, Associate Professor of History
Dr. Michael Gibbons, Assistant Professor of Sociology
Dr. Lawanda Greene, Assistant Professor of Nursing
Mr. Michael Hammock, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Ms. Felicia Haywood, Assistant Director of the Library
Ms. Lisa Henry, Assistant Professor of Air Traffic Management
Dr. Myungjae Kwak, Assistant Professor of Information Technology
Ms. Sandra Monk, Assistant Professor Nursing.
Dr. John Pattillo, Recorder of the Faculty Senate, Associate Professor of Biology
Dr. Chip Rogers, Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate, Associate Professor of English
Mr. Stephan Steckowski, Assistant Professor of Aircraft Maintenance^{\$}
Mr. Kirby Swenson, Assistant Professor of Biology
Dr. Darcy Sun, Assistant Professor of Health Services Administration
Ms. Kathy Wilcox, Assistant Professor of Nursing

Absent/Excused:

Mr. Miguel Carmona, Student Government Association (ex-officio)
Dr. Greg George, Associate Professor of Economics
Dr. Benita Muth, Associate Professor of English
Dr. Anthony Narsing, Associate Professor of Management
Ms. Judith Schmitt, Instructor of English
Dr. Randy Spaid, Professor of Education

Guests:

Dr. Pamela Bedwell, Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs
Dr. Kevin Cantwell, Interim Provost
Dr. Loretta Clayton, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies
Dr. Rebecca Corvey, Dean of the School of Health Sciences
Dr. Donna Ingram, Chair of the Department of Nursing

Dr. Sheree Keith, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Michele Scordato, Assistant Professor of Clinical Social Work

Mr. Edwynn Wallace, Associate Professor of Physics, Chair of the Executive Committee

Dr. Mary Wearn, Assistant Provost for Academic Planning and Policy

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, and Agenda

Dr. Brennan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Recognizing a quorum, he reminded senators to state their names before speaking.

Dr. Brennan then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26th meeting of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Gibbons made the motion and Dr. Burnham seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Dr. Brennan announced a small change to the agenda for the April 1st meeting, noting that Dr. Spaid would not be presenting with Dr. Clayton. Dr. Brennan then called for a motion to approve the agenda for April 1st, 2016 as changed. Ms. Chalfa made the motion, Dr. Brouwer seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Q&A with President Blake

Dr. Brennan then introduced President Blake.

President Blake administered the Senatorial oath to Mr. Chad Dennis, a new senator from the School of Aviation.

President Blake then gave a brief presentation to the Senate. Dr. Blake updated the Senate on the state of the search for a new Provost, noting that four candidates will be visiting MGA for interviews over the next couple of weeks, and that faculty will receive resumes (edited for privacy) and an itinerary before each candidate arrives. President Blake also announced that MGA's request for \$4.2 million in state appropriations to grow our aviation programs had passed the Georgia Senate and is awaiting gubernatorial approval. Dr. Blake stated that he and several other USG presidents had written Governor Deal asking him to veto the "campus carry" bill. He also encouraged any faculty members who have dealings with the state government to lend their voices in support of the official BOR policy, which is to keep the current law regarding firearms on campus. Dr. Blake also updated the Senate on the progress of our newest graduate degree proposals, stating he hopes for these degrees to be on the agenda at the May meeting of the BOR.

Dr. Blake took some impromptu questions from the Senate. In response to a question about the petition circulating on the Internet requesting that commencement be moved back to the Macon Coliseum, Dr. Blake stated that he had

heard about the petition, but had not yet received it. He stated that he was pleased that students felt free to make their voices heard about their concerns, and that he was not convinced that we have solved the problem of how to hold commencement. He said that he would like to see how the spring commencement goes at the fitness center before considering any more changes. In response to a question about the cost savings of moving commencement to a campus facility, President Blake stated that he did not know the exact amount, but that the savings were measured in thousands of dollars. He noted that he felt that the fitness center was a fine facility for commencement for a number of reasons, but that the size of the facility made it necessary to have two commencement ceremonies per year. Further he stated that he had been in discussion with the Provost regarding questions of faculty attendance at both commencement ceremonies, and that he believed it was a faculty responsibility to attend commencement at least once per year. There were no further questions for Dr. Blake

Reports from Standing Committees

Dr. Brennan introduced Dr. Keith to report from the AAC. Dr. Keith updated the Senate on the activities of the AAC and brought a set of eleven program deletions forward for Senate approval. The deleted programs were associates degrees being deleted due to overlap with bachelor programs. These eleven proposals were considered by the Senate as a group. Dr. Brennan asked for a motion to bring the program deletions forward for discussion. Dr. Pattillo made the motion. Following some discussion, Dr. Brennan called for a vote on the proposed program deletions. The deletions were approved by show of hands with twenty-five in favor and none opposed. The proposal numbers for the deleted programs are listed below:

1. P-ENGL-01-AA-2015-2016
2. P-HIST-02-AA-2015-2016
3. P-MCA-02-AA-2015-2016
4. P-MCA-03-AA-2015-2016
5. P-NSCI-01-AA-2015-2016
6. P-NSCI-02-AA-2015-2016
7. P-PSCJ-01-AA-2015-2016
8. P-PSCJ-02-AA-2015-2016
9. P-PSCJ-03-AA-2015-2016
10. P-PSCJ-04-AA-2015-2016
11. P-PSCJ-05-AA-2015-2016

Dr. Brennan introduced Mr. Wallace to report from the Executive Committee (EC). Mr. Wallace updated the Senate on the activities of the EC, and presented a proposal to change the name and description of the Alternative Academic Affairs committee. Dr. Brennan asked for a motion to bring the proposal forward for discussion. Dr. Burne made the motion. Dr. Wallace explained that the new name and description were needed to better define the scope of the committee's charge. The proposed new name was to be the "Non-traditional Programs Review Committee." Mr. Wallace

explained that this committee is intended to provide initial review of programs that do not take place in a traditional classroom setting. Hearing no questions, Dr. Brennan asked for vote on the proposal. The proposal was approved by show of hands with twenty-four in favor and none opposed.

Dr. Wallace introduced Dr. Clayton to help Mr. Wallace present two proposals from the EC to the Senate. The first was a proposal to establish councils of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Brennan called for a motion to bring the proposal forward for discussion. Dr. Frazier made the motion. Dr. Clayton explained that councils of the Faculty Senate would function as reviewing and advising bodies and would not appropriate any of the powers assigned to current boards and committees of the Senate. These councils would include members with specific expertise, and would not necessarily need representation from all academic units. Following some discussion, Dr. Brennan called for a vote to approve the proposal. The proposal to create Councils of the Faculty Senate was approved by show of hands with twenty-five in favor and none opposed.

The second proposal was to make the interim Graduate Studies Council a permanent council of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Brennan called for a motion to bring the proposal forward for discussion. Dr. Baker made the motion. Dr. Clayton explained that the Graduate Studies Council had been operating in an interim fashion and that there is a need to create a permanent version of the Graduate Studies Council. The establishment of the permanent Graduate Studies Council warranted a few changes to the bylaws of the interim Graduate Studies Council, which Dr. Clayton reviewed. Following some discussion, Dr. Brennan called for a vote. The proposal to create a permanent Graduate Studies Council with the specified revision to the bylaws of the interim Graduate Studies Council was approved by show of hands with twenty-five in favor and none opposed.

Mr. Wallace resumed the podium to present a proposal to clarify the election bylaws for the Promotion and Tenure subcommittees, and the Promotion and Tenure/Post Tenure Review Oversight Committee. The changes for the PT/PTR Oversight Committee included the addition of a requirement that all members have a minimum of five years of service at MGA. In addition, department chairs would be no longer be eligible to serve as members of the PT/PTR Oversight Committee: they would be replaced by an approximately equal numbers of full and associate professors. The change to the PT subcommittees would require that all members have a minimum of five years of service at MGA. Dr. Brennan called for a motion to bring the bylaw changes in these two bodies forward for discussion. Mr. Aiken made the proposal. During discussion, Dean Corvey wished to speak, and so Dr. Brennan called for a vote to suspend the rules of order. The rules of order were suspended unanimously by voice vote. Dean Corvey asked if probationary years towards tenure could count as years of service at MGA for the purpose of service on the PT subcommittees and PT/PTR Oversight Committee. Dr. Wallace and Interim Provost Cantwell replied that this had been discussed, and that the current language— which does not count probationary years towards tenure in determining

the five years of service— had remained in the proposals. Hearing no further discussion, Dr. Brennan first called for the senate to vote on the changes to the bylaws of the PT/PTR Oversight Committee. The changes were approved by show of hands with twenty-four in favor and none opposed. Dr. Brennan then called for a vote on the changes to the bylaws of the PT subcommittees. These changes were approved by show of hands with twenty-five in favor and none opposed.

Mr. Wallace announced that the proposal for Senior Lecturer status would likely be presented at the senate's May meeting. Mr. Wallace, Dr. Brennan, and Dr. Cantwell then answered questions about the Senior Lecturer position.

Finally, Mr. Wallace announced that results of the recent Senate elections were posted on the Inside MGA website.

Unfinished Business

Dr. Brennan introduced Dr. Cantwell to discuss the issue of summer semester salaries. Dr. Cantwell stated he had received a question about Ms. Stroud's recent email, and that in response he wished to clarify the issue of using over-enrollment in one section to make up for a deficit in enrollment in another section. Dr. Cantwell announced that such a policy would continue this summer with the stipulation that the two sections had to be for the same course, offered at the same campus, and offered for the same part of the term. Dr. Cantwell announced that the USG system office had been informally told that a three percent merit raise had been approved by the legislature for the coming fiscal year, but that official guidelines for allocating the raises had not yet been approved. He stated that it was likely that USG would be allowed to give merit raises on a sliding scale of 0-5% out of a 3% aggregate pool. Dr. Cantwell further stated that once the official announcement is made by the USG, he would work with Ms. Stroud to release a set of guidelines for determining the value of merit raises. Dr. Pattillo asked if the administration had discussed considering the students enrolled within an academic unit as a pool, and virtually dividing them among course sections so as to improve summer course offerings at all campuses and times. Dr. Pattillo added that he had heard this idea had been proposed to the previous Provost. Dr. Cantwell replied that they had not discussed the idea of pooling students, and requested that Dr. Pattillo send a summary of the proposal via email for future discussion.

New Business

Dr. Cantwell continued at the podium to discuss faculty attendance at commencement. He stated that the President has considered the complaint that those faculty members who used to pay to rent academic regalia once a year are now having to pay to rent academic regalia twice a year. The President also understands the concern that commencement scheduled in the middle of May or December may cut into available times for faculty members to take family vacations. Dr. Cantwell stated that the President had determined that all faculty members

would be required to attend commencement this spring, but that future policy would require individual faculty members to attend one commencement ceremony per year. This policy would need to be written so as to assure that both commencement ceremonies would feature appropriate faculty representation.

Dr. Cantwell also discussed the current requirement for a yearly meeting of the MGA Academic Assembly, which has become somewhat burdensome. Dr. Cantwell suggested that at the next meeting of MGA Academic Assembly, perhaps the assembly could discuss if, given the existence of the Faculty Senate, an Academic Assembly is still needed. Dr. Brennan suggested that perhaps the assembly could continue to exist, but that yearly meetings would not be required. Dr. Cantwell replied that the assembly certainly had the authority to change its bylaws to that effect. Dr. Cantwell concluded by inviting faculty to review the bylaws of the MGA Academic Assembly, which are currently posted on the MGA Shared Governance website, and to consider any changes carefully.

Dr. Cantwell then answered questions from the Senate. Dr. Frazier asked if there had been any discussion of potential policies about the carrying of firearms on campus, should the state campus-carry legislation pass into state law. Dr. Cantwell explained that the USG had directed all campuses to support current law, and that there had been no official discussion of other policies. He stated, however, that if the law were to pass, policies would have to be formulated very quickly. Ms. Crump asked if the BOR's recent removal of curriculum overlay policies would affect the multiple assessment reporting currently occurring in MGA's Area B courses. Dr. Wearn and Dr. Cantwell replied that Area B should not be impacted by the removal of the overlay policy since these overlays were actually measured outside of Area B. Dr. Wearn added that there would likely be some scheduling ramifications due to the removal of the global overlay policy.

Questions and Announcements

Dr. Brennan responded to a question from Dr. Frasier about how Senate officer elections will work at the next meeting.

Dr. Wearn alerted the senate of the many proposals that the Academic Affairs Committee expects to bring before the senate at its next meeting.

Dr. Brennan called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Chalfa made the motion and Dr. Sun seconded. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. John Pattillo, Recorder